GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7877
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2002
EXPORT OF SEAFOOD
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the various kinds of marine products exported from India to different countries in general and to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, USA and Canada in particular during each of the last three years upto 31 March, 2002 alongwith their quantity and value;

(b) whether export of marine products from India has declined considerably during 2001-02;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(d) the further efforts being made by the Government to increase the export of marine products in the coming years;

(e) whether the rate of rejection of Indian marine products is higher in the world;

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor;

(g) the value of Indian marine products rejected by importing countries during the last three years; and

(h) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to reduce the existing rejection rate ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

(a) The major item wise exports of marine products from India during the last three years have been as follows:-

(Quantity in Tons & Value in Rs. Crores)

Items	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002 (Provisional)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Frozen Shrimps	110275	3645.22	111874	4481.55	124861	4073.10
Frozen Fish	131304	537.34	212903	874.68	173382	705.51
Frozen Squid	34918	296.80	37628	324.43	39097	323.74
Frozen Cuttle Fish	32799	286.22	33677	288.99	29963	273.58
Others	33735	351.09	44391	474.28	50767	494.30

Total 343031 5116.67 440473 6443.89 418070 5870.23

Of which , the exports of marine products to Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, USA andCanada during the last three years were as under:-

(Quantity in Tons & Value in Rs. Crores)

Country	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002 (Provisional)	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Japan	66990	2272.78	68983	2560.39	64620	1815.38
South Korea	3385	32.12	7772	50.38	15061	72.34
Taiwan	5100	36.80	5466	44.50	7439	53.49
USA	36645	775.35	41747	1164.40	48202	1402.97
Canada	3254	55.30	3193	59.67	3893	56.88

Source:- Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)

(b) & (c) The exports of marine products during 2001-02 amounted to US $ 1235million (Provisional) as against of US $ 1416 million during 2000-01, showing a decline of 12.8%. The global recession and consequent price fall in some of our major markets etc., are the main reasons for the decline in exports.

(d) In order to increase the exports of marine products, Government have been taking several steps, which include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; expansion of aquaculture; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices to prevent outbreak of diseases; assistance to produce value-added products for export; participation by MPEDA in international fairs, conducting overseas market surveys; etc.

(e) & (f) During the period from July, 1998 till March, 2002, Government has been intimated by the importing countries of44 cases of rejection of Indian marine products. However, the number of cases in respect of other countries are not available with Government. All the cases were rejected by the European Union member states due to the reported presence of certain bacteria like Vibrio Cholera, Vibrio Parahaemoliticus, Salmonella and Nitrofurans etc.

(g) Based on the Certificate of Export issued by the concerned approved processing units, the value of Indian marine products rejected by importing countries during the last three years have been as follows:-

Year	Value (in Rs. Crores)
1999-2000	0.30
2000-2001	2.66
2001-2002	3.80

Source:- Export Inspection Council of India

(h) Government have taken a number of steps to reduce the rejection of export consignment of marine products, which include:-

i) Laying down the essential requirements for hygienic handling of Fresh, Frozen and Processed Fish and Fishery Products at all stages of production, storage and transport to ensure effective compliance of the quality standards.

ii) Prescribing the maximum permissible level of antibiotics, pesticides and heavy metal in fish and fisheries product to ensure that fish and fisheries products are not contaminated with antibiotics, pesticides and heavy metal.

iii) Establishing procedure for complaint handling mechanism.

iv) Introduction of a three-tier surveillance system by EIC to ensure that the marine products processing units comply with the stipulated quality norms.

v) Issuing of advice by MPEDA has alerted all seafood exporters, processors, farmers, feed manufacturers, hatchery owners, etc., not to use the banned antibiotics in their Aquaculture inputs etc.